

**2011 STUDY OF THE U.S. INSTITUTE ON
RELIGIOUS PLURALISM IN THE
UNITED STATES**

Host Institution – to be determined

June, 2011

Deadline for Applications: October 29, 2010

**1. Institute Objectives**

This Study of the U.S. Institute is an intensive, rigorous six-week academic seminar whose purpose is to provide university faculty and other professionals from countries worldwide with a deeper understanding of American society, culture and institutions, past and present. The program's ultimate goal is to strengthen curricula and to improve the quality of teaching about the United States at universities and other educational, training and research institutions.

2. Program Description

The Study of the U.S. Institute on Religious Pluralism in the United States will provide a multinational group of up to 18 foreign university faculty and practitioners with a deeper understanding of U.S. society and culture, past and present, through an examination of religious pluralism in the United States and its intersection with American democracy. Employing a multi-disciplinary approach, drawing on fields such as history, political science, sociology, anthropology, law and others where appropriate, the program will explore both the historical and contemporary relationship between church and state in the United States. Participants will examine the following aspects of religious pluralism in the United States: the ways in which religious thought and practice have influenced, and been influenced by, the development of American-style democracy; the intersections of religion and politics in the United States in such areas as elections, public policy, and foreign policy; and the sociology and demography of religion in the United States today, including a survey of the diversity of

contemporary religious beliefs and its impact on American politics. Prospective applicants are encouraged to visit our website to obtain general information about the FY10 Institutes at: <http://exchanges.state.gov/academicexchanges/scholars.html>.

The Institute is tentatively scheduled for early June 2011.

3. Housing and meal arrangements

Typically, participants will have a private room with a shared bathroom during the residency portion (four weeks) of the institute, and will share a hotel room during the study tour (up to two weeks). Housing will usually be in college or university owned housing. Most meals will be provided at campus facilities, though participants may have access to a kitchen to cook some meals on their own. Full details will be provided once the grants have been approved. It is important that nominees are clear of these arrangements and are comfortable with such housing arrangements, particularly sharing a hotel room with another participant for up to two weeks.

4. Health Insurance

All participants will receive the Department of States coverage of \$50,000 with a \$25 deductible for the duration of the program. Pre-existing conditions are not covered.

5. Funding

The Study of the U.S. Institute will cover all participant costs including costs for program administration, international travel costs, domestic travel and ground transportation, housing and subsistence, books, cultural activities, mail, and incidentals.

6. Program requirements and restrictions

Participants are expected to participate fully in the program. They are expected to attend all lectures and organized activities, and to complete assigned readings. Family members and/or friends cannot accompany participants on any part of the program [no exceptions]. Please note that teaching methodology and pedagogical methods will not be addressed formally in the institute. Candidates should be aware that this is an intensive institute and there will be little

time for personal pursuits unrelated to the program. The institute should not be viewed as a research program. It is important that applicants understand and accept these requirements and restrictions.

7. Candidate qualifications

(A) Candidates should be mid-career, typically between the ages of 30-50, fluent in English, highly-motivated and experienced professionals from institutions of higher education. While the educational level of participants will likely vary, most should have graduate degrees and have substantial knowledge of Religious Pluralism in the United States.

(B) The ideal candidate will be an experienced professional with little or no prior experience in the United States, whose home institution is seeking to introduce aspects of U.S. studies into its curricula, to develop new courses in the subject of the institute, to enhance and update existing courses on the United States, or to offer specialized seminars/workshops for professionals in U.S. studies areas related to the program theme. In this respect, while the nominee's scholarly and professional credentials are an important consideration, an equally important factor is how participation in the institute will enhance course offerings in U.S. studies at the nominee's home institution.

(C) In order to get a better sense of potential participants motivations and goals, candidates are requested to provide a short personal statement (one page) indicating why he or she is interested in participating in the program and what he or she expects to get out of the experience.

(D) Candidates should be willing and able to fully take part in an intensive post-graduate level academic program and study tour. While senior faculty members are eligible applicants, first consideration will be given to younger, mid-career professionals, and to persons who are likely to be comfortable with campus life (including campus-style accommodations) and an active program schedule.



AMERICAN STUDIES
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8. To apply for the institute

Applicants should submit an application for this program by fax or e-mail. The application deadline is October 29, 2010. The electronic application form may be viewed and downloaded from <http://malaysia.usembassy.gov/susi.html>.

To submit an application or to request more program details, all interested candidates are welcome to contact Cultural Affairs Assistant Helena Bridget, Public Affairs, American Embassy, 376 Jalan Tun Razak, 50400 Kuala Lumpur. Tel: (03) 2168-5106; fax: (03) 2148-9192 e-mail: publicaffairskl@gmail.com

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